

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
INV. B23K9/09

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
B23K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 726 419 A (TABATA ET AL.) 10 March 1998 (1998-03-10) column 27, line 44 - line 54; figures 26a, 26b	1-17
A	US 5 225 660 A (MITTA ET AL.) 6 July 1993 (1993-07-06) claim 5; figures 20-28	1, 5-20
A	US 5 317 116 A (TABATA ET AL.) 31 May 1994 (1994-05-31) the whole document	1-20

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents :

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority, claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*Z\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search.

11 May 2006

Date of mailing of the International search report

19/05/2006

## Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.O. 5818 Patentaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Herbreteau, D

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

Information on patent family members

International application No  
**PCT/AT2006/000066**

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 5726419	A	10-03-1998		NONE
US 5225660	A	06-07-1993	DE	4023155 A1 07-02-1991
US 5317116	A	31-05-1994	GB	2242547 A GB 2267162 A WO 9101842 A1 02-10-1991 24-11-1993 21-02-1991